

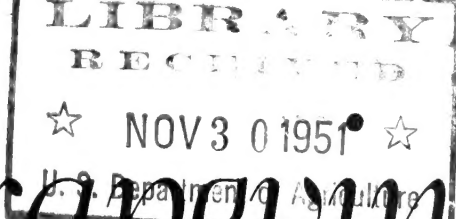
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The Evans & Reeves Grapevine



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NO. 7

IT'S TIME FOR —

COLORING LEAVES of deciduous trees and shrubs have their places even in California gardens and are usually at their best in November and December. Two subjects which vie for first place are the **Liquidambars** and the **Chinese Pistachio**. The former are trees of considerable stature, *L. styraciflua* being the best-known and most widely planted, famous for its pyramid of red, purple, gold and bronze foliage suggestive of the Eastern Maples, and its wide tolerance of soils and climates. *L. formosana* remains smaller and holds its color slightly longer. Pistachio chinensis has bipinnate leaves of great delicacy, may be grown as shrub or tree, in tub or open ground, and has an oriental character, and turns as fiery a red as any plant in a New England autumn. Other brightly seasonal trees are the **Ginkgo** (yellow), **Zelkova** (like a purple Elm), **Koelreuteria** (yellow, some with showy salmon seed pods), **Crapemyrtle**, and **Japanese Maple**. Colored-leaved shrubs include **Nandina**, the **Mahonias**, and the **Barberries**.

VINES important at this time include **Pandorea pandorana** because it will retain its glossy green foliage through the sharpest weather and produce pretty buff and bronze blossoms come winter; **Hardenbergia comptoniana** for its grape-shaped clusters of pea-like violet flowers in winter as well as its clean dark green, distinctly-shaped, all-year foliage; and **Pyrostegia ignea**, the Flame Vine, for its fiery cool-season bloom, particularly successful in the Palm Springs area.

Three **BERRIED SHRUBS** not mentioned last month are **Photinia arbutifolia**, the Toyon, with its giant clusters of bright red; the **Hollies**, especially Burford for bearing; and **Arbutus unedo**, the strawberry bush (or tree), with its handsome edible fruits.

Mums are still with us, especially the Kramer strains which haven't even started

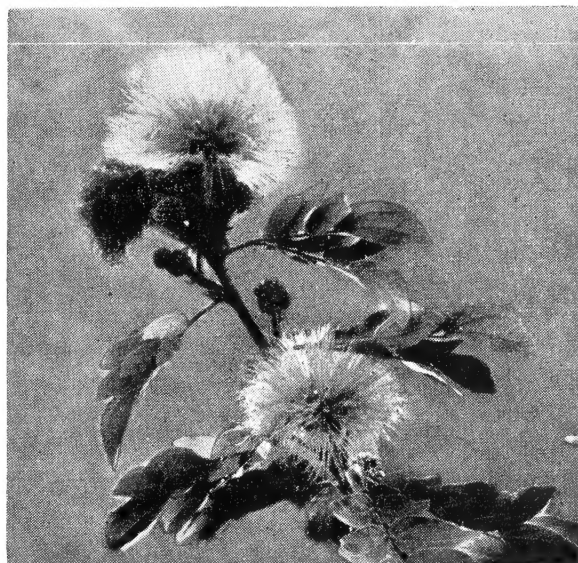
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CALLIANDRA INAEQUILATERA

Pink Patriarch

Here and there throughout Southern California a very uncommon shrub is beginning to put forth the first flowers of the season. We were about to say that *Calliandra inaequilatera* is still quite rare, but upon reflecting we estimate that there must be several thousand of them distributed between Santa Barbara and San Diego, although ten years ago there was but one plant, now growing where it was originally planted, in our front garden.

Commonly known as the Pink Powder Puff, our specimen is now some six feet



high by ten feet across, about half the size it might have been had it not been for cuttings for the thousands of plants we mentioned which have found a home here. The remarkable blossoms, which are large, watermelon-pink and composed entirely of silky stamens, will be generously produced for the next several months amid graceful, billowing foliage, the pinnate leaves, dark metallic green at maturity and a glossy copper when new.

Now about that one plant, the original: one of our collaborators, having just re-

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Balcony Scene

In any large city many of us live in apartments and our only chances to garden are on a balcony high above the street, in a window box, or on a paved terrace. All of these situations are a challenge, but results can be gratifying and beautiful.

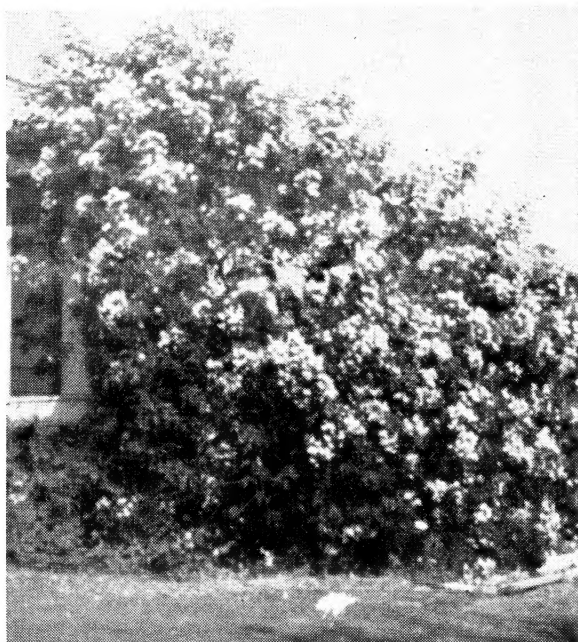
Consider first your limitations of space and background. Small spaces are more easily maintained, so this is an advantage. And if you're lucky enough to have for your backdrop a neutral-colored concrete, wood or brick wall any green plant with interesting structure will stand out more effectively than it would against a mass of other green leaves. Particularly in such a situation notice that the spaces between leaves are more interesting than the leaves themselves, so choose a plant that is not a green ball, and never trim it so.

Effective focal shrubs for the most important plant are Podocarpus of any species (careful pruning and thinning can keep this subject within bounds), Pittosporum phylliraeoides, Schefflera digitata, Cordyline in variety, or even Phormium tenax. This last will tolerate any amount of wind, as will many of the handsomest succulents. If you unfortunately have a background of vivid green paint, navy blue, or chocolate (as many of the builders, alas, are using) you will do better to look at gray-leaved plants with white or yellow blooms for your scheme: the Senecios, Artemisias, Helichrysums, Leucophyllum.

Containers for plants should be simple, unglazed, neutral-colored, and of proportion ample for some kind of plant. Extra-shallow pans as well as pots smaller than seven inches diameter are inadequate for anything except the smallest succulents and rock plants. And don't strive for cutting-flower gardens in wind and shade.

Having chosen your focal plant, and containers to fit the few other spots where smaller specimens can be placed, allow us to assist you in selecting these remaining subjects with careful thought to their harmony with, or complement to, the whole. Avoid too great variety in smaller plants.

Cassia splendida



PLANT OF THE MONTH

Let Us Spray!

Say you gardeners, I'm taking you to task!

Too many plants are showing up of late terribly infested—mealy bug, scale, aphids, red spider. I know California has been termed a "Bug's Paradise." No prolonged cold spells, few drenching, cleansing rains.

But we can and must clean up these garden pests. Was Grandma smarter than you? Grandma threw soapsuds on her plants, thoroughly drenching 'em—it worked! Nurseries in the early twenties used whole oil soap and nicotine sulphate. They kept clean nurseries. Man by nature is apt to be lazy and this push-button age is perhaps not improving him in this respect. The mighty atom which will pop out of a bottle, flash around the garden killing all pests, is yet to come—so, until that happy day, "Let us spray." At Evans & Reeves we pride ourselves that we have clean, healthy plants. How, you ask, do they get this way?

It's no secret: we spray—not because we have infestations, but because we anticipate and prevent them.

Won't you come along with us? Don't wait until the enemy is upon you in overwhelming numbers. Spray regularly, spray thoroughly. When next you come to the nursery, ask your salesman to enlarge on this with specific recommendations—it will help you—it will help us!

Hugh Evans

Charmian—"Is this the man? Is't you sir, that knows things?"

Soothsayer—"In Nature's infinite book of secrecy a little I can read."

Antony and Cleopatra.

For at least twenty-five years, the old garden in Santa Monica and our establishment here have been happy hunting grounds for plant students as well as plant addicts. I do not suppose a day passes that does not bring in its train some individual seeking the name of or some information about a plant,—or perhaps pitifully inquiring about the distressed condition of the plant in question, and how it can be speedily restored to its pristine health and beauty. Sometimes the specimens shown to us for purposes of identification are rather small, occasionally even microscopic; a circumstance which has more than once prompted me to indulge in the quotation from Shakespeare shown above. I realize of course that letting myself go in that fashion exposes me to the suspicion that either I am showing off my erudition or I am slightly demented or both!

It is flattering to our self-esteem if not good for our soul to be regarded as possessing omniscience, if only it were true! The real gardener or horticulturist never graduates, he never gets to know it all or indeed nearly enough for that matter. When he stops learning he is finished. The thing to do is to aim at perfection and come as near it as possible, but unhappily so many of us are poor marksmen or the target is too elusive.

But in all seriousness, while we are not tree doctors or plant pathologists, we pride ourselves in having in our organization people who have a wide and extensive knowledge of plants and their care and cultivation, if we can offer an intelligent and helpful opinion based on our experience and observation we are glad to express it; if we cannot supply the information desired, we say so, realizing that nothing is given so profusely as advice, and that misinformation is worse than no information at all.

That blaze of glory which makes the Golden Shower Tree of the Tropics such an eye-catcher is equalled in its showiness by a relative which finds our climatic conditions kinder: *Cassia splendida*. This vigorous evergreen shrub from Brazil brightens the winter landscape with heavy racemes of even more brilliant yellow flowers, completely enveloping the bright green foliage in a golden mantle.

Cassia splendida will accommodate itself to almost any situation but is ideally located in a sunny, well-drained spot, with plenty of space in which to follow its distinctly horizontal habit of growth. For though *Cassia splendida* will reach ten feet or more, its lateral growth will exceed its upward as every branch strives for a horizontal path. A sharp pruning in the spring following the blooming period will aid materially in its form. \$1 and \$4.50.

Calliandra . . .

(Continued from front page)

turned from South America, brought us among other things three lonely seeds collected in Bolivia of a striking plant which he had been unable to identify. Three weeks after planting a solitary sprout appeared. Not for several years did the plant produce its first flowers, enabling us to establish it properly as *Calliandra inaequilatera*, the first one to make its home in our temperate climate.

As might be surmised from its place of origin, Bolivia, this *Calliandra* is on the tender side and we cannot recommend it beyond the Hibiscus, Bougainvillea belt but given a warm south or west wall (where it lends itself admirably to informal espaliering), or a protected patio environment, this newcomer will flourish, providing a truly beautiful winter flower display. From \$2 to \$15.

IT'S TIME FOR . . .

(Continued from front page)

and will last into January. Don't forget to **fertilize the lawn** thoroughly if you haven't done so already with Grorite, Vigoro, or if new lawn, Bowsoilife or Milorganite. Don't forget **Tulip** and **Hyacinth** bulbs, and remember also the **BEDDING ANNUALS** for early spring bloom.

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IT'S TIME FOR ... CAMELLIAS



One of the showiest and best-loved shrubs blooming at this time is the **CAMELLIA**. And surely one of the most beautiful and prolific of all Camellias is **High Hat**, clear light pink very double, well adapted to container or foundation planting, lustrous foliage to the ground and just a hint of variegation in the leaves. Another outstanding pink is **Mrs. Howard Asper**. If you liked the cup-shaped purity of Lotus, you have its blushing counterpart in Mrs. Asper. And a prize available in one gallon size only is **Mrs. Tingley**, a shell pink extra large double that is still new but sells for only \$3.75. Outstanding whites include the also still new White Daikagura, **Margaret Hertrich**, the extremely floriferous informal semi-double **Finlandia**, and of course **Alba Plena**, an early formal. Rose-colors and reds are too many to enumerate. Ask us to show you. From \$2.25.